

I am writing concerning the American Public Power Association's comments. I am an amateur radio operator active on the hf bands 160-10 meters.

Currently our electric provider, Bandera Electric Co-Op is using "Turtle Meters" that are remotely read over the power line. I believe that they are controlling much of their system by this method. We have no noticeable interference from that system.

The APPA letter talks about rural communities lack of Internet access. currently, we have dial-up thru our phone co-op, wireless thru a private provider, and satellite available from our phone co-op and private firms.

We also have cable TV, but they do not have internet access service-yet. The letter talks about large companies not wanting to invest in rural areas, and yet, leaves out the reason why smaller companies should fill this void.

They will not do it unless there is money in it, just like the larger city companies. When large dish satellite TV came in in the 80's, Bandera Electric Co-op got involved, and became the local supplier-now they are no longer in the business, leaving the poor customer with a dish and no one to service it, even though there is large dish programming available. Of course, the small dishes came in, and the large was out.

The FCC should not change any rules to accommodate the BPL interference on the hf bands, or any other part of the spectrum, the BPL equipment must meet all applicable regulations, or be turned off until it does. The FCC files contain numerous instances where power companies line has caused interference due to bad insulators, poor installations, old equipment, etc. Even with the assistance of the

FCC, it has been almost impossible to get the problem fixed and eliminate the interference. I doubt it will be any different if BPL is allowed.

A few years ago, we had bad interference on our TV, it was a bad pulse sort of interference. I got a vhf radio and made a dipole antenna and went looking for the interference. I found it on a road 1-½ miles behind my house. A power line belong to Bandera Electric Co-op was strung from a high hill into a valley. The pole at the top of the hill was vibrating when the line blew in the wind. The insulator was leaking so much power, that you could feel the electricity when you touched the pole. What was need was a new insulator, and a pole in the middle of the line to prevent line sway. I went to the company with this information. At first they said it was not their line, then when I explained it to them, they could not understand the concept of the interference from their line, even though their own TV's were being interfered with. A visit to the site still did not get an action. However, while tuning through the band looking for interference, I heard aircraft signals, I reasoned that they were being interfered with also. I called the Kerrville, Texas airport tower and told them of the problem, they told me they were being interfered with, and thanked me for find it. The problem was fixed immediately.

If the FCC is concerned with the lack of Internet accessibility to rural areas, why don't you just make the small dish downstream satellite feed free?

Thank You ,George R. Griesbach W5GRG